Funds for film production

84. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India propose to finance film industries;

(b) if so, the allocation made thereon during the current year; and

(c) the guidelines for providing funds for film production devised, if any?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. IDBI has approved a scheme for financing of feature films.

(b) To start with, IDBI has decided that the portfolio size for financing of films might be about Rs. 100 crore.

(c) To be eligible for assistance under the scheme, the borrower has to be a corporate entity. While there is no upper limit for sanction, the minimum quantum of assistance would normally be not less than Rs.20 million.

Permanent employees of Prasar Bharati

† 85. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees are working permanently in Prasar Bharati; and

(b) if so, the total number of permanent employees in March 2001, together with the average annual expenditure being incurred on their salaries, allowances and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) About 41,349 persons who were working in erstwhile Akashvani and Doordarshan on permanent basis are now working in Prasar Bharati after its

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

establishment on 23.11.1997, on deemed deputation basis. Approximate expenditure on their pay and allowances during the year 2000-2001 was Rs.504.48 crores.

Establishment of TV Centres in Maharashtra

86. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government so far as establishment of TV Centres in States is concerned;

(b) the position of Maharashtra so far as establishment of TV Centres is concerned;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a TV Centre at Amravati in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the criteria for deciding the locations of TV transmitters includes factors such as existing facilities, extent of resultant coverage to urban and rural pupulation, provision of services to tribal, hilly, remote and border areas, terrain condition, availability of resources, *inter se* priorities etc.

(b) Three studio centres and 106 transmitters (DD.1-102, DD.1I-. 4) are presently functioning in Maharashtra. For further expansion of TV coverage in Maharashtra, 18 transmitter projects are under implementation.

(c) to (e) A TV transmitter is already functioning at Amravati. There is no proposal to set up any other TV centre at Amravati.